

President's request for defense. By my estimation this money was not necessary for our national security, especially when we are cutting nearly every other discretionary spending account as we move toward a balanced budget. I remain unconvinced that our defenses need vast infusions of new funds, and I disagree with some of defense priorities so ardently advocated by the majority.

Ballistic missile defenses receive \$3.3 billion in this bill, which is \$855 million above what the president requested. I don't think there is anyone in this Chamber who would argue against developing and deploying missile defense systems to protect our troops in the field. But many of my colleagues are anxious to embark on a missile defense spending spree that the Congressional Budget Office estimates could cost up to \$60 billion. I would say to them that not only would that be a waste of taxpayer money, but could have the long-term effect of squeezing other necessary defense programs from the defense budget. It would be ironic if those who profess to care so much about our defenses end up undermining them instead.

I voted for a series of unsuccessful amendments to cut billions of dollars from both the Defense authorization and appropriations bills. However, I did vote for final passage of the Defense appropriations bill. While I disagree with the overall spending figures in the bill, Senators STEVENS and INOUE did an excellent job of crafting legislation which will best serve our military. In particular, I am pleased that the bill includes \$150 million for peer-reviewed breast cancer research, and \$100 million for prostate cancer research. In addition, the bill provides a full 3 percent pay raise for our troops, as well as a 4 percent raise in the basic allowance for quarters. Finally, I worked hard to have money added to the bill so that Air National Guard F-16 units can maintain a cost-effective force structure.

In closing, I look forward to the results of the nonpartisan, independent National Defense Panel created by a 100 to nothing vote during the debate on the DOD authorization bill. This Commission will be tasked with reviewing our current defense program, and give an independent assessment of a variety of possible force structures through 2010. We owe it to the Nation to put the Defense Department through the same budgetary scrutiny that we are putting virtually every other category of Government spending.●

ISABEL STUDENT HONORED

● Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention the outstanding efforts of a young man from my home State. Ryan Maher is a senior from Isabel High School in Isabel, SD. Recently, Ryan placed second in his region and first in the State competitions to advance to

the national competition for National History Day.

National History Day is a 5-day event held in June at the University of Maryland in College Park. The annual competition is now entering its third decade. Today, 400,000 students and 50,000 teachers and media specialists participate. National History Day is an excellent way to encourage students to be more active in learning United States history.

Every year National History Day is centered around a specific theme. The theme of this year's competition was "Taking a Stand." There are two levels of competition, the junior level is 6th through 8th grades and the senior division includes grades 9 through 12. Categories include research paper, group or individual presentation, display presentation, or performance.

Ryan competed in the senior division with a display presentation entitled, "Dakota Farmer: Battling the Elements." Like other students who were a part of the competition, he spent countless hours researching and developing his project. He incorporated interviews with his grandfather and other farmers from the area, together with old photographs, to tell the history of working South Dakota land. Ryan became interested in the subject after he had written a paper on farming and the dust bowl years of the thirties. This was the second time Ryan participated in the nationwide competition.

Ryan won the honor of having his project displayed in the Smithsonian Museum of American History on Wednesday, June 12, 1996. Projects were judged on several criteria, including relation to annual theme, analysis of information, and historical perspective. The honor of having one's work displayed in the Smithsonian Museum of American History and earning the trip to our Nation's Capital are great rewards to students such as Ryan. I highly commend Ryan Maher for his outstanding academic efforts.●

JOHN S. WATSON, SR.

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, on July 6, former New Jersey Assemblyman John S. Watson, Sr. died of cancer. A committed public official and compassionate private individual, he will be missed by the entire New Jersey community.

Watson's life was a series of firsts. He was a public official for 23 years, serving at both the county and State level. In 1970, he became the first African-American member of the Board of Chosen Freeholders in Mercer County. Seven years later, he became the first black freeholder in New Jersey to be chosen president of a county freeholder board. In 1981, he was elected to the New Jersey Assembly where he represented the 15th District for 12 years. His career in the legislature was capped by being named chairman of the Assembly Appropriations Committee in 1992; he was the first African-American in the country to hold such a position.

During his years in the Assembly, John also served on the Housing Committee, the Legislative Advisory Committee on Arts and Furnishings, and the New Jersey Capital Budgeting and Planning Commission. As a legislator, he successfully sponsored measures to create the minority opportunity skills training program, a college based computer training program, and the New Jersey pre-college program for high school students.

Assemblyman Watson consistently supported State aid to urban areas, tax reform and programs for the elderly and poor. He successfully fought to establish a rainy day fund to reserve budget surpluses for times when revenue declined. He was also known for his unfailing courtesy to those on both sides of the political aisle.

But if that is how John Watson will be remembered in Trenton, his district will remember him as a caring man who used his political power to aid individuals and families in need. New Jersey will indeed miss his service and his spirit.

The great humanitarian Albert Schweitzer remarked, "One thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve."

If that is true, then John S. Watson, Sr. was indeed the happiest of men.●

TRIBUTE TO MOLLY PHELAN OF COLORADO, GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD WINNER

● Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize 17-year-old Molly Phelan of Estes Park, CO. On June 29, 1996, Molly was honored with the Girl Scout Gold Award from the Mountain Prairie Girl Scout Council in Colorado. The Gold Award is the highest honor achieved in U.S. Girl Scouting and is awarded to young women between the ages of 14 and 17, or in grades 9 through 12. To be eligible for this award, one must display outstanding achievement in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. Additionally, a Girl Scout must earn the Career Exploration Pin, four interest patches, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, and complete a Gold Award Project of her own creation.

Molly has made outstanding contributions in each of these areas. As a senior at Estes Park High School and a devoted member of Girl Scout Troop 642, Molly completed numerous projects throughout the year. For her Gold Award Project, Molly was an active member of the Death-Day Program at her high school which recognizes those who have died in drinking and driving accidents. She took this issue a step further by making public service announcements on the radio about drinking and driving awareness.

Molly truly exhibits concern for her community and a desire to improve the world around her. She is an excellent role model for all youth and displays